
**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, May 25, 1800, from
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

May 25. 1800

Dear Sir

I wrote you the day after you left town a letter wh. I gave Dr. Fouchee for Mr. Eppes who promised to breakfast with him on the morning of his departure. It was not till yesterday in council that I heard from the Dr. the letter had not been sent. So much time having elapsed I shod. not now write you on the subject of the former one, reserving it for future communication if that were the only object. It was found on enquiry in a way wh. compromitted no one, that the affr. cod. not be made general, but wod. be dissented to, and probably opposed by the principal members of the admn. party. It was feard also that the zeal of some of our friends wh. had been in a peculiar degree excited by yr. promise had abated by yr. absence, especially as yr. passing thro' furnished so fair a portrait for not acting. It was also probable it might lay the foundation for a like attention by the tories, to our new Secretary whereby you wod. be involved in a kind of competition with a with a creature who wod. be benefited by an occurrence wh. gave birth to the idea alone. Under these circumstances the project was abandoned.

Chase harranged the G. Jury in a speech

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said to be drawn with some art, as it inculcated so popular doctrines with allusions wh. supported by Eastern calumnies be intended for you. He declared solemnly he woud. not allow an athiest to give testimony in court. Your have perhaps seen that the circumstance of the dinner in Fredbg. being on a Sunday is the foundation for this absurd calumny. The g. jury of wh. McClurg was for'man presented Calendar under the Sedition law 7 Chase drew the warrant & dispatched the marshall instantly in pursuit of him. This was yesterday at 12. Since wh. we have not heard of either. If taken I hope the people will behave with dignity on the occasion and give not pretext for comments to their discredit. If I cod. suppose the contrary I wod. take proper steps to aid in bringing him forth. I mean to prevent any popular mutiny to the contrary. Will it not be proper for the Executive to imploy council to defend him, and supporting the law, give an eclat to a vindication of the principles of the State? I have only time I add my best wishes for your welfare. Yr. friend & servt. Jas. Monroe

Sunday 27 May 1800

Thos Pinckney has been here, & called on me invitations were reciprocated. Marshall has called-Chase has not

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).